

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 12, 15-17, and 20 have been amended, and Claims 3, 14 and 21 have been canceled, to define more clearly the claimed invention. It is believed and intended that no new matter has been added by this amendment. Reconsideration and allowance of all claims are requested in view of the following remarks.

The Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that the drawings filed on February 21, 2002 are accepted.

Claim Objections

Claims 9, 16, and 20 are objected to because of listed informalities. Claims 9, 12, 16, and 20 have been amended to correct these informalities.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-2, 8-10, 12-13, 19, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Document JP 2000-112141 A, to Inoue et al. (hereafter referenced as JP '141). The below remarks concerning JP '141 are based solely upon the drawings and partial English translation provided by the Examiner.

The present application relates to a mechanism for correcting unbalance of a rotor that occurs when leading and trailing edges of a sheet member are held on a peripheral surface of the

rotor and the rotor is rotated (page 1, lines 1-4). The rotor includes a chuck device for pressing a leading edge and a trailing edge of the sheet member against the peripheral surface of a drum body. The chuck device includes a first chuck and a second chuck and has a first mode, in which the first chuck is attached to the drum body and the second chuck is apart from the drum body, and a second mode, in which both the first and second chucks are attached to the drum body. A main balancer is attached to the drum body and has a first relative positional relation with the first chuck. A sub-balancer is attached to the drum body and having a second relative positional relation with the second chuck in the second mode. The main balancer and the sub-balancer increase unbalance of the rotor in the first mode and reduce unbalance of the rotor in the second mode. (Page 5, lines 6-20.)

JP '141 discloses a mounting arrangement of a counter weight which attaches the counter weight for adjusting the equilibrium state at the time of rotation of the drawing equipment and the drum which draw to sensitive material, such as a lithographic plate with which the drum was equipped (paragraph 0001).

Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to include allowable material, so the current rejection with respect to those claims is mooted. Moreover, Claim 21 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The Examiner also rejected Claims 1-2, 8-10, 12-13, 19, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,505,142, to Inoue et al. (hereafter referenced as '142). The Applicant notes that '142 lists JP 10-325116 as one of the priority applications, and this application corresponds to the JP '141 publication.

‘142 discloses annular grooves being formed on both end surfaces of a recording drum to be rotated. Two balance weights are disposed inside each of the annular grooves. The balance weight is composed of a magnet, and is attracted to the end surface of the recording drum by its magnetic force. The two balance weights are arranged at a predetermined attaching angle such that an unbalance force caused by centrifugal forces developed by a plate and a movable clamp, for example, is canceled. Every time the size and the mass of the plate are changed, the positions of the two balance weights are adjusted, so that forced vibration in the recording drum is restrained. (Abstract.) A fixing clamp for attaching the plate is fixed to an outer peripheral surface of the recording drum (col. 11, lines 15-18). A fixing clamp balance member is attached to the outer peripheral surface of the recording drum on the opposite side of the fixing clamp. The fixing clamp balance member is formed so as to have an approximately equal weight to that of the fixing clamp. (Col. 11, lines 22-26).

Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to include allowable material, so the current rejection with respect to those claims is mooted. Moreover, Claim 21 has been cancelled, as noted above.

Since both JP ‘141 and ‘142 are deficient references, Claims 1 and 12 are not anticipated by the prior art as applied by the Examiner. Further, Claims 2, 8-10, 13, and 19 each depend upon one of Claims 1 and 12 and thus are patentable for the reasons set forth above based on this dependency as well as the recitations set forth therein. Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections of Claims 1-2, 8-10, 12-13, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Allowable Subject Matter

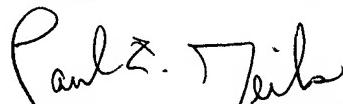
The Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that Claims 3-7, 11, 14-18, and 20 contain allowable material.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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